GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:445
ANSWERED ON:26.04.2016
Use of Conventional Agricultural Implements
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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether most of the agricultural operations in larger parts of the country are still carried out by manual, simple and conventional agricultural tools and implements;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether low cost agricultural technologies which are suitable for small land holdings have not been developed by the agricultural research institutes in the country and if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government proposes to develop low cost modern agricultural tools, implements and machines to carry out agricultural operations such as ploughing, sowing, irrigation, thinning, pruning, weeding, harvesting, threshing and transportation of crops in the country and if so, the details thereof and the steps being taken by the Government in this regard; and

(e) whether the Government has launched any schemes for modernization of agriculture in the country and if so, the details thereof and the steps taken/being taken by the Government to encourage the small and marginal farmers to adopt such technologies to reduce the wastage of human labour and improve the yields per acre in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

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(a) & (b): The degree of farm mechanization is expressed as a ratio of mechanical power to cultivable unit area, which in India has increased from 0.48 kW/ha in 1975-76 to 1.84 kW/ha at present. It indicates that the use of mechanical sources of power such as tractor, power operated and self propelled machines for various agricultural operations is increasing. Some of the agricultural operations requiring low energy input are carried out by conventional manual and animal drawn agricultural tools.

Contd..2/-

(c) & (d): Research and Development is an ongoing activity. Central Institute of Agricultural Engineering, Bhopal & its regional centres are working for development of agricultural machines and equipment to cater to the requirement of various crops, commodities, agro-climatic regions and socio economic conditions of farmers.

(e): To encourage small and marginal farmers to adopt improved agricultural machines and equipments, Sub-Mission on Agricultural Mechanization has been launched w.e.f. 2014-15, with the objectives of Promoting 'Custom Hiring Centres'; Creating hubs for hi-tech & high value farm equipments; providing financial assistance for purchase of agricultural machines and creating awareness among farmers through demonstration & capacity building activities.

Farm Mechanization is also promoted through other schemes viz. National Food Security Mission, Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture, Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojna and National Mission on Oilseeds and Oil Palm.

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